

### In The Claims

Please amend the claims as follows. A complete set of claims is presented below, with additions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikethrough.

1. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the full-length or part of the nucleocapsid (NP) protein of Newcastle disease virus (NDV), wherein the full-length nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO: 1.
- 2-6. (Canceled)
7. (Currently amended) A recombinant expression plasmid containing the isolated nucleic acid molecule ~~NDV nucleocapsid gene~~ as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Currently amended) The recombinant expression plasmid according to claim 7, wherein which is the expression plasmid comprises coding regions for a *myc* epitope and 6 His residues downstream of a multiple cloning site into which the isolated nucleic acid is inserted ~~pTreHis2-NP constructed by cloning the NDV nucleocapsid gene of claims 1 or 2 into vector pTreHis2.~~
10. (Canceled)
11. (Currently amended) An ~~A-transformed~~ *Escherichia coli* cell transformed with the recombinant expression plasmid ~~according to~~ of claim 7 ~~or claim 9~~.
12. (Canceled)
13. (Currently amended) The *Escherichia coli* cell ~~transformed microorganism~~ according to claim 11, which has a genotype of F<sup>-</sup> *mcrA*  $\Delta$ (*mrr-hsdRMS-mcrBC*)  $\phi$ 80*lacZ* $\Delta$ M15  $\Delta$ *lacX74* *recA1* *ara* $\Delta$ 139  $\Delta$ (*ara-leu*)7697 *galU* *galK* *rpsL* (Str<sup>R</sup>) *endA1* *nupG* ~~is the transformed *E. coli*~~

~~TOP10 (pTreHis2-NP) produced by introducing the recombinant expression plasmid of claim 7 or claim 9 into *E. coli* TOP10.~~

14-16. (Canceled)

17. (New) An *Escherichia coli* cell transformed with the recombinant expression plasmid of claim 9.

18. (New) The *Escherichia coli* cell according to claim 17, which has a genotype of F<sup>-</sup> *mcrA*  $\Delta(mrr-hsdRMS-mcrBC)$   $\phi 80lacZ\Delta M15$   $\Delta lacX74$  *recA1* *ara* $\Delta$ 139  $\Delta(ara-leu)$ 7697 *galU* *galK* *rpsL* (Str<sup>R</sup>) *endA1* *nupG*.